

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

### **Sarah Palin and Tipper Gore, meet Frank Zappa.**

Â Both dominant political parties in the United States have too many candidates and officeholders who do not hesitate to promote censorship. Some deny it is censorship, but a stinkbomb remains a stinkbomb even if Madison Avenue calls it a biscuit. Â Frank Zappa did an excellent job taking on Tipper Gore and her bipartisan group's push to force ratings on music -- with the silent if not vocal complicity of AI -- and GOP veep candidate Sarah Palin (any relation to Michael Palin from Monty Python?) veered towards library book banning when a smalltown mayor. AsÂ Time reports: "[Palin's mayoral opponent] Stein says that as mayor, Palin continued to inject religious beliefs into her policy at times. 'She asked the library how she could go about banning books,' he says, because some voters thought they had inappropriate language in them. 'The librarian was aghast.' That woman, Mary Ellen Baker, couldn't be reached for comment, but news reports from the time show that Palin had threatened to fire Baker for not giving 'full support' to the mayor."Â Of course, both sets of presidential and veep candidates carry on the shameful history of remaining silent while convention protestors' get pushed far away from the earshot and eyesight of conventiongoers and while police abuse demonstrators and suspected demonstrators left and right, as I have blogged about during the last few days. Jon Katz

Posted by Jon Katz in First Amendment at 00:00